

### **AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended)      A method for supporting a plurality of devices operating on different frequency bands comprising ~~the steps of~~, during a first period of time:  
at an access point:  
initiating a contention free period at a first frequency;  
switching from the first frequency to a second frequency;  
communicating with devices operating at the second frequency; and  
periodically during the first period of time, temporarily ceasing the step of communicating with devices operating at the second frequency to initiate a contention free period at the second frequency, switch from the second frequency to the first frequency, initiate another contention free period at the first frequency, and switch from the first frequency back to the second frequency.
2. (original)      The method of claim 1 wherein the first period of time is divided into intervals, and wherein the step of temporarily ceasing the step of communicating with devices operating at the second frequency occurs during each interval in the first period of time.
3. (currently amended)      The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:  
at an access point:  
after the step of switching from the first frequency to the second frequency, initiating a contention free period at the second frequency;  
transmitting multicast data to subscribers operating at the second frequency; and  
ending the contention free period at the second frequency.
4. (currently amended)      The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the steps of~~ initiating a contention free period comprises transmitting a beacon message.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~the steps of~~, during a second period of time:

at an access point:

initiating a contention free period at the second frequency;

switching from the second frequency to the first frequency;

communicating with devices operating at the first frequency; and

periodically during the second period of time, temporarily ceasing the step of communicating with devices operating at the first frequency to initiate a contention free period at the first frequency, switch from the first frequency to the second frequency, initiate another contention free period at the second frequency, and switch from the second frequency back to the first frequency.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the second period of time is divided into intervals, and wherein the step of temporarily ceasing the step of communicating with devices operating at the first frequency occurs during each interval in the second period of time.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

at an access point:

after the step of switching from the second frequency to the first frequency, initiating a contention free period at the first frequency;

transmitting multicast data to subscribers operating at the first frequency; and

ending the contention free period at the first frequency.

8. (currently amended) A method for supporting a plurality of devices operating on different frequency bands comprising ~~the steps of~~:

at an access point:

during a first period of time,

initiating a contention free period at a first frequency;

switching from the first frequency to a second frequency; and

communicating with devices operating at the second frequency,

during a second period of time,

initiating a contention free period at the second frequency;

switching from the second frequency to the first frequency; and

communicating with devices operating at the first frequency.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising ~~the steps of~~, during the first period of time:

after the step of switching from the first frequency to the second frequency, initiating a contention free period at the second frequency;

transmitting multicast data to subscribers operating at the second frequency; and

ending the contention free period at the second frequency.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising ~~the steps of~~, during the ~~first~~ second period of time:

after the step of switching from the second frequency to the first frequency, initiating a contention free period at the first frequency;

transmitting multicast data to subscribers operating at the first frequency; and

ending the contention free period at the first frequency.

11. (new) A method for supporting a plurality of devices operating on different frequency bands comprising,

at an access point:

during a first period of time,

- initiating a contention free period at a first frequency;
- switching from the first frequency to a second frequency;
- initiating a contention free period at the second frequency;
- transmitting multicast data to subscribers operating at the second frequency;
- ending the contention free period at the second frequency; and
- communicating with devices operating at the second frequency,

during a second period of time,

- initiating a contention free period at the second frequency;
- switching from the second frequency to the first frequency;
- initiating a contention free period at the first frequency;
- transmitting multicast data to subscribers operating at the first frequency;
- ending the contention free period at the first frequency; and
- communicating with devices operating at the first frequency.

12. (new) The method of claim 11, further comprising initiating a distributed coordinated function mode prior to communicating with devices operating at the second frequency by the access point.

13. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein initiating the distributed coordinated function mode allows devices operating at the second frequency to transmit inbound to the access point without having to be polled by the access point.

14. (new) The method of claim 11, further comprising initiating a distributed coordinated function mode prior to communicating with devices operating at the first frequency by the access point.

15. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein initiating the distributed coordinated function mode allows devices operating at the first frequency to transmit inbound to the access point without having to be polled by the access point.

16. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating a distributed coordinated function mode prior to communicating with devices operating at the second frequency by the access point.

17. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein initiating the distributed coordinated function mode allows devices operating at the second frequency to transmit inbound to the access point without having to be polled by the access point.

18. (new) The method of claim 5, further comprising initiating a distributed coordinated function mode prior to communicating with devices operating at the first frequency by the access point.

19. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein initiating the distributed coordinated function mode allows devices operating at the first frequency to transmit inbound to the access point without having to be polled by the access point.

20. (new) The method of claim 8, further comprising initiating a distributed coordinated function mode prior to communicating with devices operating at the second frequency by the access point.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein initiating the distributed coordinated function mode allows devices operating at the second frequency to transmit inbound to the access point without having to be polled by the access point.

22. (new) The method of claim 8, further comprising initiating a distributed coordinated function mode prior to communicating with devices operating at the first frequency by the access point.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein initiating the distributed coordinated function mode allows devices operating at the first frequency to transmit inbound to the access point without having to be polled by the access point.